

GEOE 475.3 Advanced Hydrogeology

MIDTERM EXAMINATION

Date: 25 October, 2002
Time Allowed: 1 hour
Instructor: Dr M. J. Reeves

ANSWER ANY FOUR QUESTIONS

1. An unconsolidated sand and a sandstone have a measured hydraulic conductivities of 10^{-1} and 10^{-5} m/s respectively. The sand has an effective porosity of 20%. The sandstone has an effective porosity of 0.5%. For material, determine the time in years for a tracer to be advected 100 m under an imposed hydraulic gradient of 1m/km.

2. A continuous source contaminant enters a groundwater flow-field where the horizontal velocity is 10^{-6} m/s. In the horizontal plane, the longitudinal and transverse dispersivities are 5.0 m and 0.5 m respectively. Determine the distance travelled by the centre of mass of the plume and the spatial standard deviations of the plume a period of 10 years after the spill.

3. Use the Debye-Hückel equation ($A = 0.5085$) for activity coefficients to calculate the activity coefficient for the Cl^- ion (effective radius = 0.18 nm) and the Mg^{2+} ion (effective radius 0.40 nm) in a 0.5 molar solution. Repeat the calculation using the extended Debye-Hückel equation with $B = 3.281$. Using the calculated activities, determine the effective concentrations of $[\text{Mg}^{2+}]$ and $[\text{Cl}^-]$ in a 0.5 M ionic strength solution of MgCl_2 .

4. Write mass law expressions for the following equilibrium reactions:

- $\text{CaMg}(\text{CO}_3)_2 = \text{Ca}^{2+} + \text{Mg}^{2+} + 2\text{CO}_3^{2-}$
- $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4 = 2\text{H}^+ + \text{SO}_4^{2-}$
- $a\text{A} + m\text{B} + n\text{C} = a\text{X} + b\text{Y} + c\text{Z}$
- $\text{Al}(\text{OH})_3 = \text{Al}^{3+} + 3\text{OH}^-$
- $\text{Al}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4 + 5\text{H}_2\text{O} = 2\text{Al}(\text{OH})_3 + 2\text{H}_4\text{SiO}_4$

5. Given the constituents as molarities:

	Na^+	Mg^{2+}	Ca^{2+}	Cl^-	HCO_3^-	SO_4^{2-}
Molarity	1.1×10^{-2}	9.0×10^{-4}	1.5×10^{-2}	3.2×10^{-2}	1.5×10^{-2}	2.2×10^{-4}

SECTION C

(Calculations 10 marks each - spend up to 30 minutes)

- An unconfined fresh water aquifer [the density of water can be assumed to be $1,000 \text{ kg/m}^3$] has a thickness of 23 m at the location of a piezometer installed to a total depth of 16 m. The land surface elevation at the piezometer is 98 m above sea level, and the measured depth to water is 6.5 m below the ground surface. What is the total hydraulic head for the aquifer? What is the pressure head and elevation head at the base of the aquifer?
- The unconfined aquifer described above is underlain by a thin confining layer and a second aquifer that is 64 m thick. The lower aquifer has a monitoring well that has a land surface elevation of 99 m, with a total well depth of 80 m below ground surface. The measured water-level in this well is 7.8 m below ground surface, and the density of the salt water is $1,035 \text{ kg/m}^3$. What is the equivalent fresh water head for this aquifer?
- A waste disposal company has applied for a permit to inject PCB's into the lower aquifer. Is this a good place to store hazardous waste? Why?
- An earth dam is constructed across a valley that has a very low permeability bedrock layer. The dam is 45 m high with a crest-width of 100 m and a width at the base (valley floor) of 900 m. The valley is 5 km wide. The water behind the dam is 40 m deep, and the water level below the dam is 5 m above the bedrock valley floor. Water seeps through the dam. Assume that the dam is constructed of silty clay. What is the hydraulic head at a point half-way through the dam?
- How much water would flow through a unit width of this dam in one day? [Hint: You have to assume the properties of a silty clay.]
- How much water would flow through the dam in m^3/d ?

THE END

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Date: 17 October, 2001
Time Allowed: 1 hour
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ANSWER ANY THREE FOUR QUESTIONS

- Two tills both have a measured hydraulic conductivity of 10^{-7} m/s. One till is unfractured and has an effective porosity of 25%. The other till is fractured and has an effective porosity of 0.25%. For each till, determine the time in years for a tracer to be advected 20 m under an imposed hydraulic gradient of 1m/km.
- A point source contaminant spill was released to groundwater flowing at a constant sub-horizontal velocity of 5×10^{-6} m/s. In the horizontal plane, the longitudinal and transverse dispersivities are 1.0 m and 0.1 m respectively. Determine the distance travelled by the centre of mass of the plume and the spatial standard deviations of the plume a period of 5 years after the spill.
- Four complete water sample analyses reported the following results.

Ion	Formula	Sample A	Sample B	Sample C	Sample D
	Weight	(mg/L)	(mg/L)	(mg/L)	(mg/L)
Na ⁺	22.99	69	149	115	46
Cl ⁻	35.45	71	142	142	71
SO ₄ ²⁻	96.06	96	120	40	<1
Conductivity	(mS/m)	143	220	269	65

Check the analyses and report any significant errors. Are the reported electrical conductivities consistent with the reported concentrations?

- The extended Debye-Hückel equation for activity coefficients has the form: $\log(\gamma_i) = -0.5085 z_i^2 (I)^{0.5} / (1 + 3.281 a_i (I)^{0.5})$ where z_i is ionic charge, a_i is ionic radius (nm) and I is ionic strength (mol/L). For an ionic strength of 0.1 M, calculate the activity coefficient for the Cl⁻ ion (effective radius = 0.181 nm) and the Mg²⁺ ion (effective radius 0.066 nm). Using the calculated activities, determine the effective concentrations of [Mg²⁺] and [Cl⁻] in a 0.1 M ionic strength solution of MgCl₂.
- Write mass law expressions for the following equilibrium reactions:



- $\text{Mn}^{2+} + \text{Cl}^- = \text{MnCl}^+$
- $\text{MgCl}_2 = \text{Mg}^{2+} + 2 \text{Cl}^-$
- $\text{Al}(\text{OH})_3 = \text{Al}^{3+} + 3 \text{OH}^-$
- $\text{Al}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4 + 5 \text{H}_2\text{O} = 2 \text{Al}(\text{OH})_3 + 2 \text{H}_4\text{SiO}_4$

11. Tabulate the constituents as molarities using the formula weights provided.

	Na ⁺	Mg ²⁺	Ca ²⁺	Cl ⁻	HCO ₃ ⁻	SO ₄ ²⁻
meq/L	10.8	1.80	3.09	0.32	14.85	0.44
FW	22.9	24.0	40.0	35.4	61.01	96.0
	9	3	8	5	6	6

Calculate the saturation indices for the minerals Halite (NaCl), $K_{\text{halite}} = 10^{-10}$, Nahcolite (NaHCO₃), $K = 10^{-6.143}$ and Gypsum (CaSO₄), $K_{\text{gypsum}} = 10^{-4.3}$.

THE END

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Formula Sheet

(No explanations of symbols is/are provided)

$$\begin{aligned}
 q &= K_d \\
 v &= K_d / n \\
 D_{\text{eff}} &= D^* D_d \\
 D_d &= (n^2) D_e \\
 D_{\text{eff}} &= \alpha_e v \\
 D_{\text{eff}} &= \alpha_e v \\
 D &= D^* + D_d \\
 \sigma &= (2Dt)^{1/2} \\
 D_e &= \sigma_e^2 / 2t \\
 D_{\text{eff}} &= \sigma_e^2 / 2t \\
 D_{\text{eff}} &= \sigma_e^2 v / 2x \\
 \sigma_e^2 &= v^2 \sigma_e^2 \\
 D_{\text{eff}} &= v^2 \sigma_e^2 / 2t \\
 \sigma_e^2 &= (t_e - t_{\text{ec}}) \\
 \sigma_e &= t_e / 2.345 \\
 t_e &= t_{\text{ec}} v \\
 p(h) &= \exp(-|h|/\lambda) \\
 A_{\text{eff}} &= \sigma_e^2 \lambda / \gamma^2
 \end{aligned}$$